



Serial No. 09/682,519

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yu WANG et al.
Title: HIGH FIELD OPEN MRI MAGNET
ISOLATION SYSTEM AND METHOD
Appl. No.: 09/682,519
Filing Date: 09/13/2001
Examiner: Lincoln D. Donovan
Art Unit: 2832

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PURPOSE OF DECLARATION

1. This Declaration is submitted to establish completion of the invention in this application in the United States, on a date before August 3, 2001, which I am told is the effective prior art date of U.S. Published Application 2003/0030578 ("Aoki"). Aoki was cited by the Examiner in an Office Action dated September 27, 2004 in the above-identified application. The person making this declaration is one of the joint inventors.

FACTS AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

2. The attached email (Exhibit 1) is submitted as evidence that the invention claimed in this application was actually reduced to practice prior to August 3, 2001.
3. The email sent date has been redacted from Exhibit 1 to preserve the actual reduction to practice date in confidence. However, Declarant certifies that the redacted date is earlier than August 3, 2001. Furthermore, information in sections 4-8 of the email has been redacted because it constitutes proprietary information which does not relate to the evidence needed to establish the date of the actual reduction to practice of the invention.

4. Exhibit 1 is an email sent by co-inventor Yu Wang to colleagues at General Electric Company summarizing the results of a test of a vibration isolation system for an MRI. Specifically, section 1 of Exhibit 1 demonstrates that a vibration isolation system (referred to in Exhibit 1 as "MaxDamp") was installed within a magnet skirt under the magnet of an MRI device and its performance was then tested on a shaker table.

5. Section 3 of Exhibit 1 also demonstrates that according to the test results, the use of a vibration isolation system improved the vibration performance of the system by about 5 times in the 5-12 Hz range and by about 10 times in the 13-50 Hz range compared to the "Current Spec Pads" (i.e., a prior art MRI system support that did not use the tested vibration isolation system).

6. Therefore, Declarant believes that the inventors were in possession of the whole invention or something falling within the claims as of the date of the test of the device described in Exhibit 1.

CONCLUSION

7. The attached exhibit provides evidence of the actual reduction to practice of the invention in this application before August 3, 2001. The date redacted from Exhibit 1 is earlier than August 3, 2001.

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name: Yu Wang

Signature 

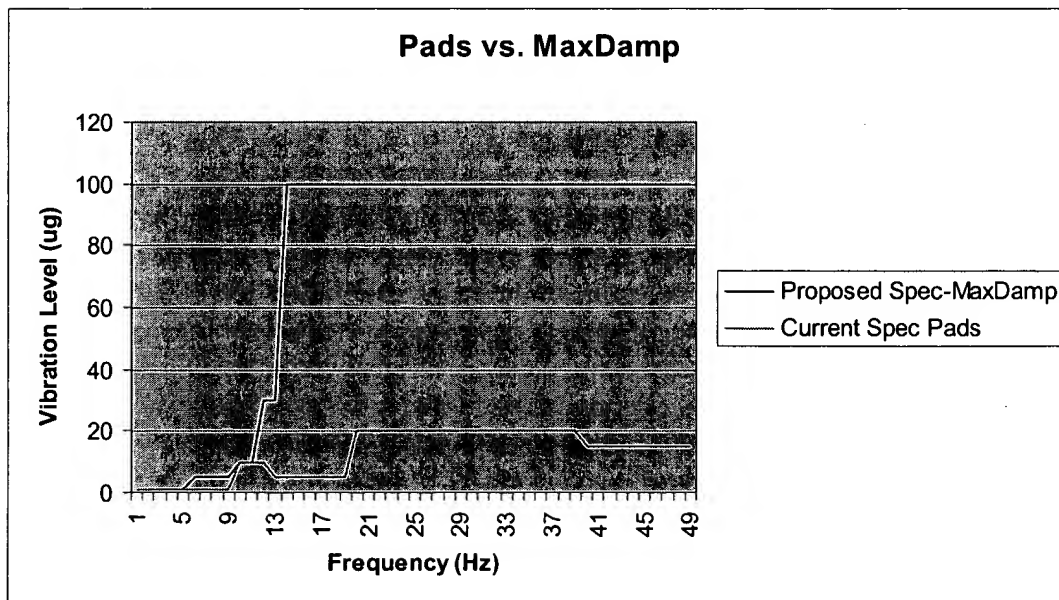
Date 11/29/2004

From: Wang, Yu (CRD)
Sent: [redacted]
To: Hallman, Darren L (CRD); Laskaris, Evangelos T (CRD); Jiang, Longzhi (MED); Lehmann, Greg (MED); Hinks, Scott (MED); Purgill, Dewain A (MED); Radziun, Michael J (MED); Vanweelden, William B (MED); Chen, William E (MED); Luo, Huageng (CRD); Havens, Timothy J (MED); Ranze, Richard A (CRD)
Cc: Smith, Brian T (MED); Tsavalas, Yannis P (CRD); Imam, Imdad (CRD); Aase, Jan H (CRD); Dorri, Bijan (CRD); Finnigan, Peter M (CRD); Jarvis, Peter (MED); Palkovich, Alex (MED)
Subject: MaxDamp

MaxDamp initial HSS test on the shaker table has completed. It has shown predicted performance. On behalf of the MaxDamp team (Trifon, Dick), great thanks to the supports we got from FLO and the weekend HSS test performed by Darren, Huageng and Walt. Here is a summary of the take-away from the effort.

1. MaxDamp has shown gravity stability when installed within the magnet skirt boundary directly under the magnet.
2. The air vales with small magnet parts have shown normal function in the significant magnetic field
3. Raised the site spec to 100 ug level in 13-50Hz range, to 10 ug in 5-12 Hz range level, and no improvement in 1-5 Hz range as expected.

4.
5.
6. **REDACTED**
7.
8.



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